

**Listing of Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently amended) A process for characterizing DNA comprising a step of isolating nucleic acids comprising, wherein the step of isolating comprises the steps of (a) lysing a cell in a biological material that contains DNA; (b) treating the biological material with a DNA purifying agent reagent to purify the DNA from remaining biological material; and (c) characterizing the purified DNA;  
wherein the step of lysing the cell (a) consists of:

[a.] contacting the [[a]] biological material that contains DNA with a solid support having dried thereon treated with a lysing reagent and a RNA digesting enzyme, wherein the lysing reagent comprises consists essentially of a detergent, optionally water, optionally a buffer, and optionally a chelating agent but lacks a chaotropic agent and wherein the solid support is free of the biological material at the time of treatment with the lysing reagent and RNA digesting enzyme,

wherein the lysing reagent is of a type suitable to preserve the RNA digesting function of the RNA digesting enzyme and is used in an amount suitable to cause lysis of the cell biological material to release DNA from the biological material[[;]]and

wherein the cell and/or the biological material can optionally additionally be treated with at least one of a red blood cell lysing reagent, a cell suspension agent, a lytic enzyme reagent, and/or a protein digesting agent.

— b. treating the biological material that contains DNA with a DNA purifying reagent to purify the DNA from the remainder of the biological material; and

— c. characterizing the purified DNA.

64. -65 (canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 63 wherein the detergent is SDS. A process for characterizing DNA comprising a step of isolating nucleic acids, wherein the step of isolating comprises the steps of:

- a. — contacting a biological material that contains DNA with a solid support treated with a lysing reagent, wherein the lysing reagent comprises SDS and a RNA digesting enzyme and wherein the lysing reagent lacks a chaotropic agent, wherein the solid support is free of the biological material at the time of treatment with the lysing reagent, wherein the lysing reagent is bound to the solid support in an amount suitable to cause lysis of biological material to release DNA from the biological material and binding of said DNA to the solid support and wherein the lysing reagent is of a type suitable to preserve the RNA digesting function of the RNA digesting enzyme, wherein any unbound lysing reagent is removed from the solid support before the biological material is contacted with the solid support;
- b. — treating the biological material that contains DNA with a DNA purifying reagent to purify the DNA from the remainder of the biological material; and
- c. — characterizing the purified DNA.

67. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or [[to]] 66, wherein the RNA digesting enzyme is RNase A.

68. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises comprising a step of applying a DNA eluting reagent to the solid support, wherein the DNA eluting reagent comprises:

- a buffer;
- a base;
- a chelating agent; and
- water; and

wherein the DNA eluting reagent has a pH of at least about [[10.5]] 10.0, and the combined concentration of buffer, base, and chelating agent is no greater than about 20 mM, based on the total volume of the DNA eluting reagent.

69. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the solid support is contained in a vessel, wherein the vessel is at least one selected from [[a]] the group consisting of centrifuge tubes, spin tubes, syringes, cartridges, chambers, multiple-well plates, and test tubes, and combinations thereof.

70. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises comprising the further step of heating the solid support to greater than 60°C.

71. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the biological material is at least one selected from the group consisting of eukaryotic cells, prokaryotic cells, microbial cells, bacterial cells, plant cells, mycoplasma, protozoa, fungi, viruses, and lysates and homogenates thereof.

72. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the biological material is at least one selected from the group consisting of body fluids, body waste products, excretions, and tissues.

73. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the biological material is an environmental sample taken from air, water, sediment and/or soil.

74. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 71, wherein the isolating step further comprises comprising the a step of counting eukaryotic cells when the biological material [[is]] comprises eukaryotic cells.

75. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 71, wherein the isolating step further comprises a comprising the step of counting prokaryotic cells when the biological material [[is]] comprises prokaryotic cells.

76. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 71, wherein the isolating step further comprises a comprising the step of counting viruses when the biological material [[is]] comprises viruses.

77. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises the a step of analyzing the remainder of the lysate formed.

78. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises the a step of analyzing remaining the remainder of the biological material.

79. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 77, wherein the analyzing step further comprises the a step of monitoring impurities.

80. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises a comprising the step of quantitating the purified DNA.

81. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises a comprising the step of adjusting the concentration of DNA.

82. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the isolating step further comprises a comprising the step of evaluating the purified DNA.

83. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 82, wherein the step of evaluating the purified DNA further comprises the a step of determining the yield of

purified DNA.

84. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 82, wherein the step of evaluating the purified DNA further comprises ~~the a~~ step of determining the size of ~~the~~ purified DNA or fragments thereof.

85. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 82, wherein the step of evaluating the purified DNA further comprises a step of determining the purity of DNA.

86. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 82, wherein the step of evaluating the purified DNA further comprises a step of digesting the purified DNA with a restriction enzyme or other DNA modifying enzyme.

87. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 82, wherein the step of evaluating the purified DNA further comprises a step of analyzing the sequence of the purified DNA.

88. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 82, wherein the step of evaluating the purified DNA further comprises a step of conducting a hybridization analysis on the purified DNA.

89. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the biological material is applied to the solid support without any prior treatment of the biological material.

90. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the solid support is at least one selected from the group consisting of cellulose, cellulose acetate, glass fiber, nitrocellulose, nylon, polyester, polyethersulfone, polyolefin, and polyvinylidene fluoride, and combinations thereof.

91. (Previously presented) The process of claim 90, wherein the polyolefin is a mixture of low density polyethylene and polypropylene fibers.

92. (Previously presented) The process of claim 91, wherein the polyolefin is hydrophilic.

93. (Previously presented) The process of claim 91, wherein the polyolefin has a charge.

94. – 100. (Canceled)

100. (Currently amended) The process according to any one of claims 63 or 66 to 66, wherein the process for characterizing DNA further comprises comprising a step of amplifying the purified DNA, wherein the purified DNA is applied to an amplification system to create amplified DNA.

101. (Previously presented) The process of claim 101, wherein the amplification system comprises buffer, primers, deoxyribonucleotides, a thermostable DNA polymerase, and a programmable heating element.

102. (Currently amended) The process of claims 101, further comprising a [[the]] step of quantitating [[the]] amplified DNA.

103. (Currently amended) The process of claims 101, further comprising [[the]] a step of evaluating [[the]] amplified DNA.

104. (Currently amended) The process of claim 103 to 104, wherein the step of evaluating [[the]] amplified DNA further comprises a step of determining the size of [[the]] amplified DNA.

105. (Currently amended) The process of claim [[104]] 103, wherein the step of evaluating [[the]] amplified DNA further comprises a step of digesting [[the]] amplified DNA with a restriction enzyme.

106. (Currently amended) The process according to claim [[104]] 103, wherein the step of evaluating [[the]] amplified DNA further comprises a step of sequencing [[the]] amplified DNA.

107. (Current amended) The process according to claim [[104]] 103, wherein the step of evaluating [[the]] amplified DNA further comprises a step of analyzing the sequence of [[the]] amplified DNA.

108. (Currently amended) The process according to claim [[104]] 103, wherein the step of evaluating [[the]] amplified DNA further comprises [[the]] a step of conducting a hybridization analysis on [[the]] amplified DNA.

110. (Currently amended) A process for purifying DNA from white blood cells in a whole blood sample, the process comprising the steps of;

a) contacting a whole blood sample with red blood cell Lysis Reagent comprising 140-150 [[nM]] mM ammonium chloride, 0.5 to 5 mM sodium bicarbonate and 0.5 to 10 mM EDTA based on the total volume;

b) separating the white blood cells from the sample;

c) isolating nucleic acid from the white blood cells by the an isolating step comprising(i) lysing a cell in a biological material that contains DNA; (ii) treating the biological material with a DNA purifying agent reagent to purify the DNA from remaining biological material; and (iii) characterizing the purified DNA;

wherein the step of lysing the cell consists of contacting the biological material that contains DNA with a solid support having dried thereon a lysing reagent and a RNA digesting enzyme, wherein the lysing reagent consists essentially of a detergent, optionally water, optionally a buffer, and optionally a chelating agent and wherein the

lysing reagent is of a type suitable to preserve the RNA digesting function of the RNA digesting enzyme and is used in an amount suitable to cause lysis of the cell to release DNA from the biological material and wherein the cell and/or the biological material can optionally additionally be treated with at least one of a red blood cell lysing reagent, a cell suspension agent, a lytic enzyme reagent, and/or a protein digesting agent, of claim 63.

111. (Currently amended) A process for purifying DNA from yeast cells and gram-positive bacterial cells, the process comprising the steps of;

- a) suspending the yeast or gram-positive cells in Cell Suspension Reagent comprising 0.05 to 0.15M Tris to maintain the sample at a pH of about 7.0- to about 8.5, and further comprises 0.05 to 0.15 M EDTA;
- b) adding Lytic Enzyme Reagent to the cells in Cell Suspension Reagent to form a mixture containing digested cells wherein the lytic enzyme reagent digests beta-1,3-glucose polymers contained in yeast cell walls;
- c) separating the digested cells from the mixture;
- d) isolating nucleic acid from the digested cells by the an isolating step comprising (i) lysing a cell in a biological material that contains DNA; (ii) treating the biological material with a DNA purifying agent reagent to purify the DNA from remaining biological material; and (iii) characterizing the purified DNA;  
wherein the step of lysing the cell consists of contacting the biological material that contains DNA with a solid support having dried thereon a lysing reagent and a RNA digesting enzyme, wherein the lysing reagent consists essentially of a detergent, optionally water, optionally a buffer, and optionally a chelating agent and wherein the lysing reagent is of a type suitable to preserve the RNA digesting function of the RNA digesting enzyme and is used in an amount suitable to cause lysis of the cell to release DNA from the biological material and wherein the cell and/or the biological material can optionally additionally be treated with at least one of a red blood cell lysing reagent, a cell suspension agent, a lytic enzyme reagent, and/or a protein digesting agent, of claim 63.

112. (Canceled)